

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

2009 Senior Health and Information Fair

I was pleased to welcome hundreds of seniors from the seven towns in my district and beyond to the 2009 Senior Fair. The fair provided attendees with flu shots and pneumonia shots, free health screenings (including glaucoma, blood pressure, pre-diabetes, cancer risk, and oral hygiene), and made available current information on senior programs, insurance, housing, saving energy and much more.



State Funding

The fiscal crisis facing our state has threatened many essential services and programs. I fought hard to restore funding cuts and obtain additional funding for institutions and initiatives in my district. I am proud of my achievements for every town:

- Ansonia:** \$25,000 in each of two years for the Ansonia Nature Center Pond House Early Childhood Learning Center
- Derby:** Derby courthouse saved
- Hamden:** \$750,000 in each of two years for Wintergreen Magnet School
- Naugatuck:** \$103,333 for Whittemore Library renovations and improved access for persons with disabilities

Special State Assistance for Small Towns

Three towns in my district are the beneficiaries of funding through the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP):

- Beacon Falls:** \$200,000 for the construction of various road improvements through town
- Bethany:** \$200,000 for the renovation and restoration of the Bethany Airport hanger to serve as a community center and emergency shelter and for the development of 120 acres of land acquired by the town for recreational facilities
- Woodbridge:** \$200,000 for traffic and safety improvements to the north entrance of Beecher Road School

State Aid For Our Towns:

	Fiscal Year 09-10
Total Education Grants	\$83,771,735
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$1,156,324
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$1,568,516
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$1,123,742
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$4,036,635
Total State Funds to the 17th District	\$91,656,952

State Senator
Joe Crisco

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I'm proud to represent the 17th Senate District:
Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck & Woodbridge


Dear Neighbor,

The global recession has hit Connecticut hard. People have lost their jobs and even their homes. At the same time, the state's budget deficit reached a record high of \$8.5 billion.


Our challenge this legislative session was not simply to balance the budget: we were determined to help grow jobs and protect working families and middle class folks who are struggling to survive the recession.

We did this by passing a fair budget that makes \$3 billion in spending cuts, protects funding for education and small businesses, and avoids across-the-board tax increases.


We passed bills that will help fight breast cancer and autism and protect the environment. I am pleased that my Biomedical Research Fund, which provides grants for research into heart disease, cancer and smoking-related illnesses, remains strong. I look forward to exploring the possibility of including research into Alzheimer's disease as an area for funding through the Biomedical Research Fund.

Sincerely,

Joe Crisco
State Senator

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**State Senator
Joe Crisco**
17th District

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Serving Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck & Woodbridge

Fighting for a Fair Budget

In September, the General Assembly and Governor Rell agreed on a budget for the next two years. The compromise budget includes more than **\$3 billion in spending cuts—the largest reduction in state history**. We did it by cutting costs in every agency and all parts of government.

At the same time, we were able to protect middle-class families, the elderly, children and the poor from devastating cuts to critical services. Democrats also made the tax code fairer by raising revenues from joint filers making more than \$1 million a year. The budget will help stabilize Connecticut's economy and help families survive this difficult time.



Protecting Families from Reckless Cuts

Despite efforts by some to make reckless cuts, I stood up for these and other important programs and services:

- ▶ **The LIFE STAR** medical helicopter has helped save lives in every town and city in Connecticut. It is an especially vital service for those in rural parts of the state.
- ▶ **Higher education scholarships** help students and their parents afford college. A recession is the worst time to reduce scholarships and financial aid.
- ▶ **Public libraries** add so much to our towns and cities. Across-the-board cuts, as some proposed, would have hit them hard.
- ▶ **School-based health centers** help protect children from epidemics, such as the flu. Deep cuts to these centers would have undermined public health.

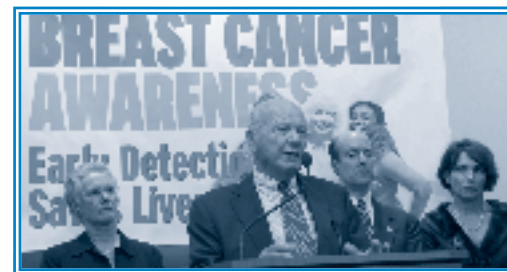


SustiNet: Comprehensive Health Care Reform

Thanks to the passage of SustiNet, Connecticut is well positioned to be a national leader on health care reform. This bold initiative seeks to overhaul the state's health care system by focusing on improved quality and access to services, addressing coverage for the uninsured and controlling skyrocketing costs. The legislature will receive detailed recommendations in 2011 with the goal of lowering costs and expanding access.

Fighting Breast Cancer: Early Detection

A key part in the fight against breast cancer is early detection, which is why I worked hard to pass legislation that focuses on communication of mammographic breast density information to patients. It requires all mammography reports given to a patient to include information about breast density, and encourages the patient to discuss with her primary care physician the need for further screening.



Insurance Coverage for Autism: Help for Families, Savings for Taxpayers

Insurance companies now are required to cover the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. This is good news not only for many families with children who have autism, but also for Connecticut taxpayers. For families, this coverage means that their children now can obtain the necessary early interventions and treatments. For taxpayers, it means a savings of \$3.6 million over two years, as insurance dollars will replace tax dollars in the funding of certain state programs.

When Health Insurance Coverage is Denied: Protecting the Consumer

As co-chairman of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee, I worked for successful passage of two bills that protect consumers: The first establishes an expedited appeals process in circumstances where an insurer denies treatment and the length of time it takes to complete that appeal could cause or worsen a life-threatening situation. The second prohibits insurers from denying health care coverage to individuals whose medical history shows short-term use of prescription drugs for anxiety.

Helping Families On the Brink of Foreclosure

As vice-chairman of the Banking Committee, I worked to expand two mortgage assistance programs. The new law requires banks and homeowners to work together to explore options before any foreclosure takes place. The law also improves regulation of mortgage professionals and expands the banking commissioner's enforcement and investigative authority.



Greater Access to At-Home Care for Seniors

I supported a new law which will give seniors who qualify increased access to in-home personal, non-medical care. Seniors now can hire their preferred assistants without using a home health care agency.

Notifying School Systems About Convicted Sex Offenders

The Department of Public Safety must now notify school superintendents in the community where a convicted sex offender lives or plans to live when released from prison. Notification must include the name, address and a general description of the offender and the crime committed.

Protecting Consumers: Choosing Motor Vehicle Repair Shops

Also in my role as co-chairman of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee, I worked hard for a law that prohibits insurance companies from directing consumers to a specific auto repair shop, and from stating that repairs may be delayed or not guaranteed if repairs are performed at shops that do not participate in the company's vehicle repair program.

Helping Veterans and Their Families

Under the Family Medical Leave Act, workers cannot be laid off when they must take time off from work to care for a loved one. Now, the same protections are provided family members who take time off from work to care for a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Army Reserve.

